

many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Irene and Roger Francis on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

HONORING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF BARBARA PITTS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 70th birthday of Barbara Pitts.

Barbara was born on October 10, 1948 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She is a two-time graduate of Auburn University. In 1972, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and in 1974, a Master of Science in Education. She is founder and charter member of Kappa Upsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. It was chartered at Auburn University on January 12, 1974.

Barbara is the proud mother of Christopher Pitts and has been blessed with two grandchildren: Zaire and Chad Pitts.

Barbara is a member of Bell Missionary Baptist Church in Auburn where she has served in many roles. She is also founding member of Alabama New South Coalition and currently serves as Vice President of the Board.

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, her friends and family will surprise her with a birthday gathering.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Barbara's life and wishing her a very happy 70th birthday.

CONGRATULATING THE CHINESE AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Chinese American Medical Society as they host their 55th Annual Scientific Symposium and Annual Red Lantern Gala.

As the oldest and one of the largest Chinese American medical societies, CAMS provides meaningful support for Chinese American medical students, educates the Chinese American community on health issues that disproportionately impact Chinese Americans, and is a leader in research on the ever-changing field of medical practices and medical technology.

The Chinese American Medical Society's 55th Annual Scientific Conference and Red Lantern Gala stands as a testament to CAMS's dedication to recognizing talent and hard work from skilled professionals who dedicate their lives to improving the health of others in the Chinese American community.

I would like to specifically congratulate S. Chiu Wong as a recipient of the CAMS Scientific Award, as well as the Chinese American Nurses Association and UnitedHealthcare Asian Initiatives as recipients of the Community Service Awards.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the Chinese American Medical Society for decades of lifechanging work.

HONORING MARLENE KAYSER ON THE OCCASION OF HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Marlene Kayser of Saint Paul, Minnesota on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Marlene's family will join her many friends to celebrate her extraordinary lifetime of service to others on September 23, 2018. Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed the day as Marlene Kayser Day in the State of Minnesota.

Growing up on a farm in southern Minnesota instilled in Marlene the values of hard work, sensibility and duty to others. A passion for promoting human rights and social justice has taken her across the state and around the world to further this vital work. Numerous organizations and causes including Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and Planned Parenthood have benefited greatly from her generosity, leadership and skills as a volunteer and role model.

Over the decades, Marlene, her husband Tom, daughter Carol and sons Tom and David literally opened their arms and their Saint Paul home to the community to generously assist others. There they have served as host family to many international students, connected countless community leaders, and launched initiatives that improve our state and our planet for everyone. The open door of the Kayser home has been a tangible symbol of the hospitality and encouragement that Marlene offers.

Through her tireless work with Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, Marlene has traveled the world as a grassroots volunteer—at her own expense—to monitor conditions and to train leaders. She's spoken with citizens and professionals about domestic violence in places like Macedonia and Romania, then returned to Minnesota to provide her valuable skills as an effective fundraiser who builds relationships and spreads the word about these important issues.

Generations of social justice advocates have been taught by Marlene's example and mentorship. It has been observed by many that her gracious persistence and dignified determination in promoting women's rights inspires others to push harder and never give up when faced with challenges. Above all, she leads by example. When called to help, you can count on Marlene to provide vision, as well as the tenacity to see a project to completion.

It is a privilege to know Marlene as a friend, confidant and mentor. Her ability to offer wise counsel and inspiration has always been a welcome presence during my elected service. I am grateful for her kindness and grace.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the many significant contributions of Marlene Kayser throughout her decades of human rights and social justice activism. As Minnesota prepares to observe "Marlene Kayser Day in Minnesota," let us all celebrate her

great impact in our state and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO PAMM AND JIM OLSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pamm and Jim Olson, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on July 28, 2018.

Pamm and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Pamm and Jim Olson on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOLEDO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary evolution of the Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI) presence in the City of Toledo as an umbrella group for the ten Sister Cities/regions which constitute this membership. Members and friends are gathering this weekend to celebrate its silver anniversary.

As TSCI celebrates its 25th anniversary, our community is also proud to celebrate what is regarded as the very first Sister City agreement when, in 1931, the Association of Two Toledos linking Toledo, Ohio with Toledo, Spain was born. That was years before President Dwight Eisenhower, in 1956, called for "citizen diplomacy" to create sister city relationships with the goal of promoting world peace. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., this organization oversees the establishment of sister city relationships which are mayor to mayor agreements that are initiated by citizens in interested cities across the globe and approved by local governing bodies.

In 1985, a relationship with Qinhuangdao, China was initiated, and it became a sister city to Toledo. Qinhuangdao and Toledo are both known as "The Glass City" because of their history of glass production.

When the oppression of communism ended in 1989 in Poland, a core group including Councilwoman Eleanor Kahle, future Councilman Peter Ujvagi, Ann Galloway and Sister Ann Frances Klimkowski, and myself discussed the formation of an association to reach out to cities coming to the light of freedom. Szeged, Hungary became the first Sister City in this new approach in 1990 and

Poznan, Poland followed in 1991. We proudly welcomed our newest partners with the mayors and leaders of each community coming together in cultural, economic, educational and humanitarian exchanges.

In 1992 an advisory board of community leaders, the Lucas County Port Authority, Toledo Edison, the Private Industry Council, and the City of Toledo came together to form Toledo Sister Cities International in order to unite existing sister city relationships and develop future affiliations. Twenty-three members of the civic, business, educational, and legal professions created the Founding Board of Trustees in 1993, and the formal incorporation of TSCI as a not-for-profit organization was finalized that year.

The first International Youth Academy was offered by TSCI in 1997, in which students from the Sister Cities attend a three-week long immersion in the culture and language, living with host families in the cities. TSCI also sponsors an international festival each year, during which members of our region share their heritages in a daylong display of heritage, culture, and food showcasing uniqueness while highlighting commonality around the world. Toledo and TSCI were proud to be the host of the Sister City International Conference in 2002, which brought 600 delegates and 300 guests from 28 countries from around the world to Northwest Ohio.

As the years continued, Toledo Sister Cities International flourished. A regional agreement with Lebanon's Beqaa Valley was established in 1998. Relationships were later cemented with Toyohashi, Japan in 2000; Tanga, Tanzania in 2001; Delmenhorst, Germany in 2002; Coimbatore, India in 2010; Hyderabad, Pakistan in 2011; Qinhuangdao/Nanchong, China in 2017 and Coburg, Germany in 2017.

While the stories behind each Sister City are unique, the way that each relationship was established was not—it all came about because people in the Toledo area and throughout the global community found a need to connect with those from another nation. The idea for 'citizen diplomacy' has not diminished as time has marched on. The work that the Toledo Sister Cities International continues to do on behalf of our communities is extraordinary. I am pleased to join Toledo Sister Cities International as we celebrate its 25th Anniversary, reflecting on the past, looking forward to the future, and inspired by an incredible journey of international citizen diplomacy.

RECOGNIZING JAN HACKETT

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jan Hackett, President of the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Hackett recently received the Tourism Leadership Award at the 2018 Governor's Tourism Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates excellence in leadership skills and abilities.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Georgia Association of

Convention and Visitors Bureaus hosts the Governor's Tourism Conference each year. The conference brings together tourism professionals from across the state, including Fannin's own Ms. Hackett.

Tourism is a vital part of Georgia's economy, especially in our beautiful mountain region, employing some 460,000 people across the state and generating over \$63 billion in revenue this year alone. This would not be made possible without individuals like Ms. Hackett.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize Ms. Jan Hackett for her leadership, as well as her dedication to tourism in Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

HONORING REGION ONE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Region One Education Services Center. Because of the hard work of their board members, administrators, educators, and students, the Texas Education Agency placed Region One at the top of the performance list.

Region One is made up of Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata Counties. This year, 100 percent of the school districts in Region One met the standard set by the Texas Education Agency, outperforming several regions of similar size. Fourteen of the districts in Region One also earned postsecondary readiness distinctions, three of which earned this distinction for the fifth consecutive year.

By setting high expectations for their students and working with the local communities to better understand their needs, Region One has gone above and beyond to provide South Texas students with the tools they need to succeed. There is no doubt in my mind that Region One will continue to empower young South Texans to perform at the highest levels.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent the hard-working individuals of the Region One Education Services Center. Our region and its recent success is a shining example of what the 15th District of Texas has to offer.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Fintech, focusing on digitization, data, and technology.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine conflicts over ocean resources.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reducing health care costs, focusing on how transparency can lower spending and empower patients.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the implications of the reinterpretation of the Flores settlement agreement for border security and illegal immigration incentives.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold closed hearings to examine inter-agency coordination in the protection of critical infrastructure.

SVC-217

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine blackstart and other system restoration plans in the electric utility industry.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine safeguards for consumer data privacy.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold hearings to examine the cyber operational readiness of the Department of Defense; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SH-216

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management

To hold hearings to examine the Federal role in the toxic PFAS chemical crisis.

SD-342

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine justice for Native youth, focusing on the Government Accountability Office-